

XXVI.—DETERMINING THE AGE OF INDIAN FISHES
FROM THEIR SCALES.

The methods for determining the age and the rate of growth of fish by an examination of scales, otoliths etc. have not so far been attempted in India, neither have the scales of Indian fish ever been subjected to a critical examination. As the result of an extended observation of fish scales from different parts of India, I have come to the conclusion that the scales from Indian fish no doubt present very great difficulties inasmuch as the rings on these are not well marked. This feature introduces peculiar difficulties which greatly handicap their elucidation. I have, however, come across some scales on which by the graphical method evolved by Winge, one could pick out what would appear to be distinct growth rings but one should hesitate a good deal before accepting them as age rings.

In India as elsewhere each species of fish must be investigated by the methods which one can best apply to it. What holds good in one species is not necessarily applicable to another, and apart from this even a specialist on scales from English fish would not venture to pronounce any definite opinion with regard to the interpretation of Indian scales. Even when one has specialised in reading the scales of one species of fish, it does not follow that he is quite qualified for applying the same principles to other species, as for instance a Salmon scale specialist in England is not the most competent person to advance an opinion on Trout scales.

To be able to say anything definite, one must examine as many fish of one species as possible in detail, carry out systematic measurements of rings to discover their interpretation. I feel we have ample material for age and growth studies of fish in India.

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XXVII.—NOTES ON THE BEETLE
PLATYPRIA ECHIDNA, GUER.

On the 10th of May I found a large number of these beetles congregated under the leaves of *Zizyphus rugosa*, Lamk. at Khanda. On examination of the leaves, it was discovered that the beetles were feeding on the epidermis of the upper side. So far as I am aware this plant is not known to constitute the food of these insects. *Platypria erinaceus*, F. is said to have been found on a species of *Zizyphus* at Belgaum. *Platypria andrewesi*, Ws. was taken on *Zizyphus jujuba*, at Nagpur and on a species of *Zizyphus* at Hajari. It was also obtained on sugar-cane leaves. *P. hystrix*, F. was taken on *Erythrina indica* at Madulsima, Ceylon. Thus we see that the majority of the genus, so far as is known, have been taken largely on species of *Zizyphus*.